

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119170

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS, DAR ES SALAAM, KAMPALA,
KIGALI, KINSHASA, NAIROBI FROM BUJUMBURA, RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0577

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BY

SUBJECT: BURUNDI DEVELOPMENTS

REF A. BUJUMBURA 484; B. BUJUMBURA 565 (NOTAL); C. STATE 112489 (NOTAL
)

1. N. Y. TIMES ARTICLE QUOTED REF C REFERS TO EFFORT
BURUNDI ARMY TO CLEAR POPULATION OUT OF MOSSO AREA AS
DESCRIBED REF B. REPORTS FILTERING BACK FROM
MISSIONARIES STATIONED IN AREAS AROUND MOSSO REINFORCE
PREVIOUS INDICATIONS BRUTALITY OF OPERATION INCLUDING
KILLINGS OF LOCAL POPULATION. NUMBER KILLED
IMPOSSIBLE ESTIMATE VIEW ISOLATION, SPARSE POPULATION OF AREA
BUT MISSIONARIES ESTIMATE TOTAL NUMBER INHABITANTS AT
PERHAPS 12-14,000 BEFORE PUSH. REPORTS FROM DAR ARE
THAT LARGE NUMBER (NYT ARTICLE ESTIMATES 10,000) FLED
TO TANZANIA, OTHERS PERHAPS IN HIDING IN BURUNDI.
SOME OF THE NEW ARRIVALS IN TANZANIA MAY ALSO BE FROM
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OTHER PARTS OF BURUNDI.

2. REPRISALS ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY SEEM TO HAVE ENDED ONCE MORE , ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL SITUATIONS MAY EXIST OF WHICH EMBASSY UNAWARE. SOME OF PEOPLE PICKED UP DURING HEIGHT OF TUTSI REACTION HAVE BEEN RELEASED, MANY OTHERS HAVE DISAPPEARED AND HAVE NO DOUBT BEEN KILLED. OPERATION OBVIOUSLY MUCH LESS WIDESPREAD THAN LAST YEAR, IN PART BECAUSE FEW POTENTIAL VICTIMS, WITH EDUCATION OR INFLUENCE, LEFT, IN PART BECAUSE EXTREMISTS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEIZE ALL EFFECTIVE POWER AT CENTER AS THEY DID LAST YEAR.

KILLINGS ALSO MORE CLOSELY SCREENED FROM CASUAL OBSERVERS, PARTLY BECAUSE THOSE KILLED RELATIVELY UNKNOWN. EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT CONFIRMATION EXISTENCE MASS GRAVES, INCLUDING THAT MENTIONED NYT ARTICLE, BUT SOURCES HIGHLY INFORMED IN PAST HAVE BEEN UNABLE FIND ANY EVIDENCE.

3. MILITARY TRAINING OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE EMPLOYEES IN BUJUMBURA HAS NOW REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN PLACED ON SEMI- VOLUNTARY BASIS AND TO TAKE PLACE ON WEEKENDS RATHER THAN DURING WORKING HOURS. FEAR ON PART OF GOVERNMENT AND CONSEQUENT DRIVE FOR STRAWS OF SECURITY, WHILE DOWN SLIGHTLY FOR MOMENT, APPEARS ON WHOLE REMAIN BASICALLY UNCHANGED.

YOST

UNQUOTE ROGERS

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